

CANAL WILL BE OPENED APRIL 15

Effects of Slides Are Nearly
Removed Col. Harding
Wires Washington.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—An official prediction that the Panama canal will be reopened by April 15 for the passage of deep draft vessels was announced Wednesday night by the war department.

Conditions in Gaillard cut, scene of the principal earth movement which blocked the waterway last fall, are regarded as justifying the forecast, according to Colonel Harding, acting governor of the canal zone, who telegraphed the war department Wednesday.

Until his report came, canal officials had refused since the closure to make any estimate of the probable date of reopening. Colonel Harding's telegram is taken to mean that short of another great movement of earth the canal will be practically in full operation again after April 15.

Serious earth movements in the canal began in September. It had been intended to send the Atlantic fleet through during the preceding July to participate in the formal opening of the Panama-Pacific exposition at San Francisco. Minor slides preceded the big movement, however, and the situation was deemed so serious by Gen. Goethals that long before the complete blockade in September the trip was abandoned.

Maj. Gen. Goethals, governor of the canal, was on leave in the United States when the canal was blocked. He had asked to be retired under the act of congress granting him that privilege with his work done. In October he hastened back to the canal zone after advising Pres't Wilson that he did not wish any action taken on his resignation until the extent of the slides was determined. When he found that a huge new task had been set him by nature he promptly withdrew his resignation.

Goethals in Washington.

Gen. Goethals was in Washington Wednesday. His future plans are not known, but it is anticipated that he will reoffer his resignation as soon as deep water traffic is again moving through the canal. Col. Harding's telegram is so positive that it is thought probable the governor may not return to the zone at all. Col. Harding will succeed him.

Reopening of the great waterway is regarded as an engineering feat second only to the construction of the canal. Millions of tons of rock and earth have been torn out of the collapsed excavations. New dredges of a size and capacity never before employed have labored night and day for months. Steam shovels have driven their way into the obstructions wherever there was ground sufficiently firm to hold them.

Facilities to Be Quicker.

In the meantime the construction work at the terminals and about the locks had proceeded without pause. When the canal is reopened it will have advanced in equipment far beyond the point it had reached when the slides began. Facilities for quick handling of ships will be much better than they were at that time, and the great project closer to final completion in all details.

FAILED TO REPORT.

International News Service: LONDON, March 16.—The first prosecution under the military conscription bill took place in Marylebone court Wednesday when Percy Lethbridge, a chauffeur, was fined \$35 for failing to report to the colors. In default of payment he was sentenced to a month.

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STRICT EMBARGO ON ARMS INTO MEXICO

All Shipments to be Held Up Except Those to De Facto Government.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—On request of the state department orders have been sent to collectors of customs at seaports of the United States and along the Mexican border to hold up all shipments of arms, ammunition or explosives consigned to Mexico, except such as it is clearly established are destined for the de facto government.

The order was said Wednesday night to be the outcome of information reaching the department that a large consignment of explosives intended for the Villa forces was about to be sent south. The instructions are sweeping in character and forbid shipments to any point in Mexico along the northern border or to any seaport. They will shut off shipments to mining companies or other persons not officially representing the Carranza government.

Officials Wednesday night refused to discuss the subject but there was reason to believe some credence had been placed in recent reports that friends of certain European nations had been willing to put munitions of war at the disposal of Villa.

SAYS GERMAN PEOPLE'S WAR SPIRIT DYING

Desperate Food Situation Makes
Desire for Peace Says
Ex-Minister.

International News Service: PARIS, March 16.—That the desire for peace is rapidly increasing throughout Germany, was the information brought to Paris Wednesday by Dr. Sidonio Paes, former Portuguese minister to Germany, who was recalled when Germany declared war on Portugal.

"The spirits of the people are dropping rapidly," said Dr. Paes. "Economic conditions are very bad. The recent issue of potato cards show the desperate food situation. Prussia is the hardest hit of all the German states. The situation there is positively painful."

"At the outset, the war was regarded in Prussia as a sacred enterprise and bound to succeed. Great enthusiasm prevailed. Recently the war spirit has flagged visibly. The idea that Germany is God's chosen nation has disappeared. Everywhere is lassitude and despondency and woe. The whole talk in what were once bellicose official circles, is now the necessity for peace."

FIRE LOSS \$110,000

Hobart, Oklahoma, Hard Hit by
Mysterious Blaze.

International News Service: HOBART, Okla., March 16.—Fire early Wednesday morning originating from an unknown source destroyed three two-story business blocks, postoffice, two hardware stores, two meat markets, a barber shop and numerous office rooms, causing a loss of over \$110,000. The telephone company here was advised of big fires at Altus and Walters, Okla., Tuesday night, but no particulars were given.

WOMAN WOULD ENLIST

Minnesota Patriot Asks to Join Navy
as Cook.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., March 16.—A woman applied at the local recruiting station for enlistment in the

navy Wednesday. She gave her name as Mrs. Mamie Johnson of Williston, N. D.

"Women at this time should do something for their country," she said, "and I would like to join the navy as a cook."

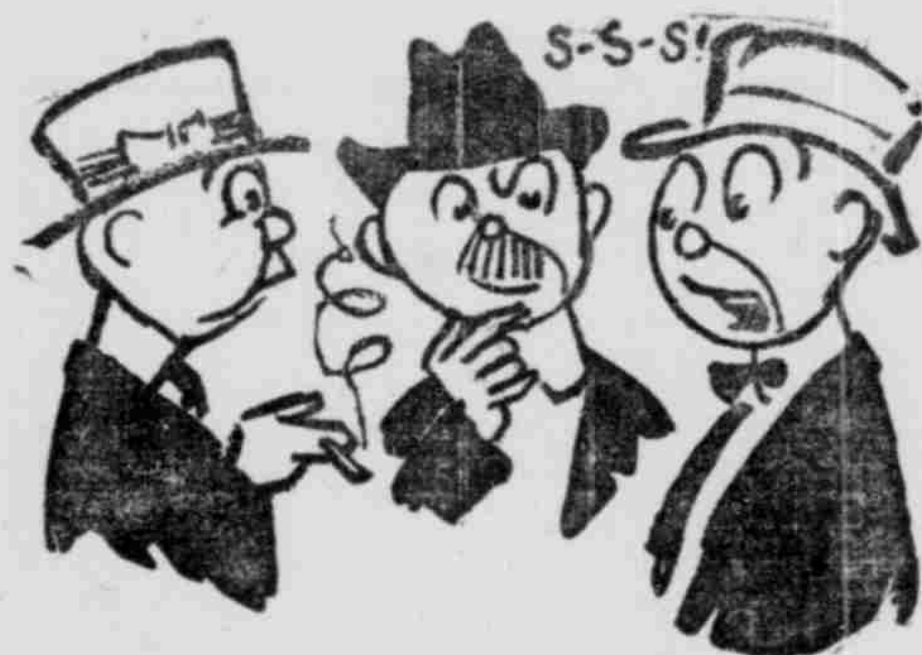
She was told the law prohibited enlistment of women.

DENOUNCES KRUPPISM.

International News Service: WASHINGTON, March 16.—Denouncing "American Kruppism," Senator Ashurst of Arizona Wednesday declared the government would save \$1,000,000 on every battleship by making its own armor plate. He urged passage of the Tillman armor plate factory bill.

TIRPITZ DISMISSED.

International News Service: LONDON, March 16.—The Rome wireless service reports that Admiral von Tirpitz has been dismissed as head of the German admiralty and that his dismissal was announced to cover his dismissal.



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